

# MEMBERSHIP-CAMPAIGN OF LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI SECTION OF M. A. OF A.

## OBJECT OF CAMPAIGN

To bring high school and college mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi into closer professional contact through the medium of a common membership in the Mathematical Association of America.

*The campaign has been strongly endorsed by the following fifteen college and university presidents and educational leaders of Mississippi and Louisiana.*

President Alfred Hume, University of Mississippi  
 President Thos D. Boyd, Louisiana State University  
 President A. B. Dinwiddie, Tulane University  
 President J. R. Coniff, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute  
 President C. Cottingham, Louisiana College  
 President E. L. Stephens, Southwestern Louisiana Institute  
 President V. L. Roy, Louisiana State Normal College  
 President B. M. Walker, Mississippi A. & M. College  
 President J. L. Johnson, Mississippi Women's College  
 President L. T. Lowrey, Blue Mountain College  
 President G. S. Sexton, Centenary College  
 President D. M. Key, Millsaps College  
 President G. T. Gillespie, Belhaven College  
 Superintendent T. H. Harris, State of Louisiana  
 Superintendent W. F. Bond, State of Mississippi.

## SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS.

It has been thought best to fix the 1927 meeting of the La.-Miss. Section of the M. A. of A. for the dates *March 4, 5, Friday, Saturday*, instead of near the close of March as at first announced. These will be the dates and Shreveport will be the place, Centenary College and Dean Hardin, with the mathematics staff of Centenary College, being hosts of the occasion.

We are sure that every one of the nearly one thousand teachers and school officers to whom this news letter goes out will approve the selection of these dates. It assures us the presence and participation in the meeting of such national figures as Miss Marie Gagle, president of the National Council of Mathematics Teachers, Professor Raleigh Schorling, ex-president of the same organization, and Professor H. E. Slaught, distinguished author, and managing editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly*. It makes probable the presence of other mathematics teachers of national prominence, among them Professor W. D. Reeve,

of Columbia University, successor to David Eugene Smith, and Professor J. R. Clark, editor of "The Mathematics Teacher", official journal of the National Council of Mathematics Teachers.

*Read Professor Slaughter's Letter* which in mimeograph form is sent out with this news letter. It needs but to be read in order to inspire, to challenge, to stir the truly progressive teacher of mathematics.

*Shall we not rally—all of us, secondary and college teachers alike—and make the Shreveport mathematical conclave the greatest meeting of its kind in the history of the South?*

Representing L. S. U. as a delegate to the Louisiana State Teachers' Association we prized highly our opportunity while in Alexandria of conferring personally with a number of the parish superintendents, and, especially the privilege of presenting our cause to the mathematics section of the L. T. A. Here are some decisions not hitherto announced.

Superintendent Lunsford, of Beauregard Parish, will recommend to his School Board that Professor W. C. Roaten, of DeRidder, be sent as a delegate to the Shreveport meeting.

Superintendent Patton, of Claiborne Parish, promises to recommend Prof. T. F. Wilbanks as a delegate.

Superintendent Read assured us that Union Parish will send a delegate.

Superintendent Linton of Madison Parish will recommend a delegate.

Superintendent C. L. Barrow, Tensas Parish, will recommend a delegate.

Superintendent A. H. Horton, Coushatta Parish, will recommend a delegate.

#### FROM LETTERS RECEIVED

From PROF. E. E. DEES,  
Principal Ajax High School,  
Marthaville, La.

"I have just read with interest your news-letter No. 2 and I feel that the right move has been made. I feel that a move like the one you have begun will cause many who are in authority to become more interested than they now are, and it will help us as teachers to put more stress on the all important subject (mathematics)."

From PROF. N. SMYLLIE,  
Belhaven College,  
Jackson, Mississippi.

"I am glad to see accounts of the efforts to widen the M. A. of A. of Louisiana and Mississippi so as to include

the high school teachers of mathematics. I am sure that cooperation and united council will do much to standardize the teaching of this important branch of study in our schools and colleges."

From DEAN HARDIN,  
Centenary College,  
Shreveport, La.

"Prof. Hitt of Mississippi College expressed enthusiastic approval of our campaign and assured us that he would be at our meeting, bringing with him all other mathematics teachers he could get to come with him from that region.

Dr. Walker, President of Mississippi A. & M. College is in thorough sympathy with every feature of the campaign. President Key of Millsaps expressed hearty approval of the work, and stated that the college would help to pay the expenses of Dr. Mitchell to the Shreveport meeting, and that Dr. Mitchell was enthusiastic over the prospects."

A unique and highly gratifying communication comes from Prof. Mary Spencer of Sophie Newcomb Memorial College in the form of, (1), a check for \$5.00 to be applied to campaign expenses, (2), the following clipping: "To bring high school mathematics teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi into closer professional contact through the medium of a common membership in the Mathematical Association of America."

#### NO RESPONSIBILITY GREATER THAN THAT OF THE TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

In the minds of many mathematical leaders research is one of the final goals of the mathematical worker. But, prior to research and basic to it are the *mathematical programs of high schools and colleges*.

Just as every industry is fed, ultimately, by the basic industry, agriculture, so the field of mathematical research is recruited, ultimately, from the very much larger class of elementary mathematical workers.

To the extent that effective teaching in the mathematics field is more difficult than effective teaching in the fields of language, history, or applied science, to the same extent is more importance to be attached to frequent contacts and conferences between mathematics teachers.

Both high school and college mathematics instructors are faced everywhere with the problem of so using the mathematical course material that the largest possible number of minds of the *average* type of ability shall receive a benefit, either in the uses and applications of mathematics or in some form, or forms, of mental discipline.

The great number of failures which occur in the fresh-

man mathematics are due to a complexity of causes, among which are: (a), the lack of proper correlation between the secondary school program and the college programs, (b), the superior weight in the students' opinion of other programs than the academic, (c), insufficient motivation of the students in mathematical directions, (d), the undervaluation in many quarters of mathematical study, (e), others easily catalogued.

In view of these facts the conclusion is inescapable that the greatest forward step which could be taken by the mathematicians and the mathematical teachers of this La.-Miss. territory is to associate themselves in an effort to diminish, if not remove altogether, these causes of mathematical wastage.

#### RESPONDING TO SOME INQUIRIES

1. Any teacher of mathematics may secure membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics by paying \$2.00 per year. This payment entitles the member to a year's subscription to "The Mathematics Teacher," which is the official journal of the Council. Communications regarding membership may be made to Prof. John R. Clark, of the Lincoln School, New York.

2. Any teacher of mathematics who is interested in the collegiate field (why should not all secondary mathematics, as well as college teachers be interested in collegiate field?) may become a member of the M. A. of A., by paying \$2.00 initiation fee for the first year of membership and \$4.00 for the first year of membership and \$4.00 each succeeding year. Communication regarding membership may be made with Prof. W. D. Cairns, Oberlin, Ohio.

3. Any teacher of secondary mathematics who desires membership in both The National Council of Mathematics Teachers and the M. A. of A., at one and the same time, has only to pay \$4.00 per year for membership in the M. A. of A., and \$2.00 per year for membership in the National Council of Mathematics Teachers. This means, in effect, that the secondary teacher who desires membership in both organizations is not required to pay an initiation fee to the M. A. of A. In this case, both the "Mathematics Teacher," and "The American Mathematical Monthly" are sent to the member, the latter being the official organ of the M. A. of A.

4. If any mathematics teacher of Louisiana or Mississippi decides to join the M. A. of A., he may secure a membership blank by requesting same from Chairman Sanders, L. S. U., Baton Rouge, La.

Address all communications to Chairman S. T. Sanders, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.



## Supplement to No 3

To the Teachers of Mathematics in Louisiana  
and Mississippi.

Dear Colleagues:-

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is a federation of organizations of secondary teachers all over the United States. Its official journal is the "Mathematics Teacher," which is devoted entirely to the interests of mathematics in Junior and Senior High Schools.

The Mathematical Association of America is a similar organization devoted to the interests of mathematics in the collegiate field. These two great bodies have many interests in common and it is very desirable that secondary and collegiate teachers should meet together at least once a year to discuss matters of mutual importance.

The annual meeting of the National Council will be held at Dallas, Texas, on February 28, 1927, and several of its officers and prominent members have agreed to stay over and help organize a branch among the high school teachers of Louisiana and Mississippi if that meeting can be held on March 4, 5, 1927, and if there is reasonable assurance of a large and representative attendance.

Such a meeting conjointly with the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America would establish a record of which all could well be proud, and its effect on the morale of all teaching mathematics in these two states would be magnetic--it would inaugurate a professional consciousness and an esprit de corps not hitherto dreamed of.

The only conditions of membership in the Council is the \$2.00 subscription to the "Mathematics Teacher." For the Association there is a \$2.00 initiation fee besides the \$4.00 annual dues, but the Trustees of the Association have voted to remit the initiation fee to any member of the Council who wishes to join the Association.



By this generous arrangement, it will be possible for the Council and the Association to meet in joint sessions and for each to consider and profit by the problems of the other, and above all, to cultivate mutual acquaintance and derive mutual inspiration from such contacts.

I am sure it will be an immediate inspiration to meet and hear such active workers as Miss Marie Gugle, president of the National Council, who is assistant superintendent of schools in Columbus, Ohio, and Professor Raleigh Schorling, ex-president of the Council, principal of the University High School of the University of Michigan, both of whom have promised to attend this meeting, and I have no doubt that several others will also join us when they learn about it, for instance, Professor John R. Clark, of the Lincoln School, New York, who is editor of the "Mathematics Teacher," and Professor William D. Reeve who is the successor to David Eugene Smith at Teachers' College, Columbia University, both of whom invariably attend the National Council meetings.

I expect to be there, as the representative of the Mathematical Association, and I hope to meet you all at that time. You will greatly assist the Chairman of the Section, Professor S. T. Sanders of Louisiana State University, if you will send to him at once any questions, which you would like to have discussed at this meeting, and any suggestions as to those who might take part in any discussion.

Anticipating great pleasure in meeting you all at Shreveport, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. E. Slaught,  
University of Chicago.